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Calendar No. 88.

64TH CONGRESS, {
1st Session. }

SENATE.

{ REPORT
No. 97.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

JANUARY 31, 1916.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SMITH of Georgia, from the Committee on Education and Labor,
submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 703.]

The Committee on Education and Labor, to whom was referred the bill (S. 703) to provide for the promotion of vocational education; to provide for cooperation with the States in the promotion of such education in agriculture and the trades and industries; to provide for cooperation with the States in the preparation of teachers of vocational subjects, and to appropriate money and regulate its expenditure, report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

A Commission on National Aid to Vocational Education was created by act of Congress approved January 20, 1914. This commission consisted of nine members, appointed by the President. Two of the members were Senators and two were Members of the House. Upon the commission were the director of the Indiana Bureau of Legislative Information and secretary of the Indiana Commission of Industrial Agricultural Education; the director of the Manhattan Trade School, of New York City, and member of the Massachusetts Factory Inspection Commission; the president of the International Glove Workers' Union, of Chicago, and member of the committee on industrial education of the American Federation of Labor; the secretary of the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education, of New York City; and the special agent of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and member of the Massachusetts Commission on Industrial Education.

The bill was reported and introduced in the Sixty-third Congress, but not pressed at that time as it was deemed best to give an opportunity for its study and criticism by the various organizations throughout the United States. The bill has received commendation from nearly every quarter. The only suggested change is with reference to the formation of the Federal Board for Vocational Educa



tion. The bill names the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Labor, with the Commissioner of Education as the executive officer of the board.

It has been urged that the bill should be amended so as to provide a board on vocational education composed of men who can give their entire time to the work. In reporting the bill without amendment the committee has not passed upon this question, but asks its consideration by the Senate. Members of the committee were disposed to favor an amendment which would create a board of the character suggested, and it is entirely possible that an amendment will be presented by the committee on this line before the bill is acted upon in the Senate.

We commend to the consideration of the Senate the report of the Commission on National Aid to Vocational Education, which explains in detail the bill now reported, and gives reasons for its adoption. This report is so full that your committee deem it unnecessary again to go into details upon this subject.

Your committee desire as a part of their report to express appreciation for the earnest and faithful work performed by Senator Page, of Vermont, in behalf of vocational education and in connection with the work of the Vocational Commission.

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